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Columbian Institute - Ordinance -

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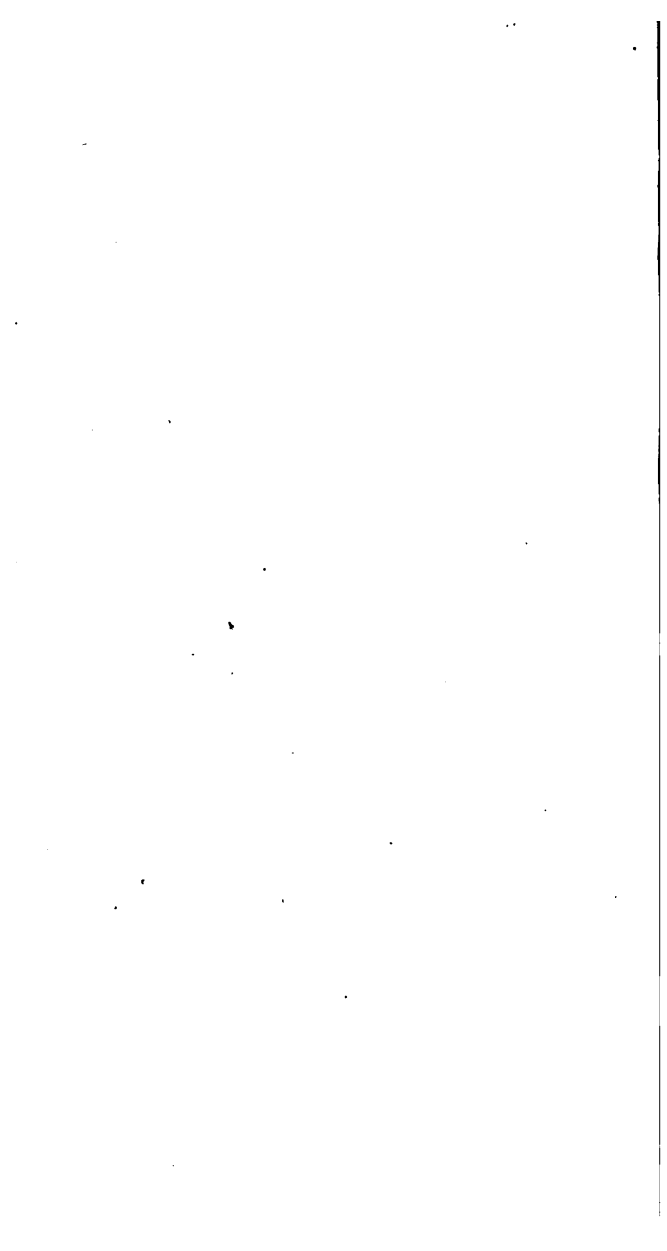


**Harvard College Library**

**FROM**

*Prof. C. Francis*





A

# **Constitutional Ordinance**

FOR THE

**GOVERNMENT**

OF THE

**COLUMBIAN INSTITUTE.**

PASSED ON THE ELEVENTH OF OCTOBER, 1820.

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PRINTED FOR THE INSTITUTE, BY S. A. ELLIOT

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*Prof. C. Francis*

[The Columbian Institute was formed at the Washington  
on the 28th of June, 1816; and was incorporated by a law  
of the United States, on the 20th April, 1818.]

# A CONSTITUTIONAL ORDINANCE

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT

OF THE

## COLUMBIAN INSTITUTE.

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Article 1. The Institute shall be styled the *Columbian Institute for the promotion of Arts and Sciences.*"

2. The Institute shall consist of five classes, viz. : of mathematical sciences, physical sciences, moral and political sciences, general literature, and the fine arts.

3. The members composing each class shall, specially, charge themselves with the investigation of the objects embraced therein, and communicate to the Institute, from time to time, the result of their inquiries : but every member of the



Institute shall have the right of making such communications as he may deem proper, on any object of art or science

4. The Institute may be composed of resident corresponding, and honorary members.

5. Resident members shall be persons residing in the District of Columbia. They shall pay to the Treasurer of the Institute, five dollars, each, upon their admission, and a like sum on the last Saturday in each year thereafter. Those who without leave, omit, for one year, to attend a meeting of the Institute, and to make the payments required by this article, shall forfeit their membership.

6. Corresponding members shall be persons residing out of the District of Columbia; and who may have manifested a desire for the promotion of science or the arts. To this class of members shall, also, belong those resident members who may remove out of the District of Columbia; provided they shall acquaint the Institute with their wishes to that effect. Corresponding members may, if they judge proper, make the same payments as resident members: and, in that case, they shall be entitled to vote on all questions that may be brought before the Institute at any meeting at which they may be present.

7. Honorary members shall be persons distinguished for their knowledge in any of the arts or sciences, and residing out of the District of Columbia. No duties shall be required of them.

8. The election of new members shall be by ballot; and the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary to a choice: but the election shall not take place until one month after the meeting at which the candidate shall have been proposed for admission. Resident and corresponding members can be elected only upon their own request, in writing, or upon the proposition of a member, made at their instance.

9. Resident members shall, as soon as may be after their admission, indicate the class to which they wish to belong. The like indication shall be made by those who are now members, on or before the first Saturday in 1821.

10. Each member shall receive a diploma, or certificate of membership, under the seal of the Institute, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.

11. The officers of the Institute shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Counsellors, (one for each class;) to be chosen by ballot from among the resident members, immediately after the passing of this ordinance, and, next, on the last Saturday in the year 1821, and, thereafter, on the last Saturday in each year.

12. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Institute: but shall, nevertheless, be entitled to vote on all questions. He shall attend to the welfare of the Institute generally.

13. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of that officer.

14. The Secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings; and, also, a record, in which each member shall, after admission, subscribe his name. He shall take charge of all communications: and shall give due notice of the meetings of the Institute.

15. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys of the Institute; and shall disburse the same on the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary. He shall keep an account of his receipts and expenditures, which he shall exhibit whenever required by the Institute: and, at the annual meetings, he shall lay before the Institute, a statement of its fiscal concerns.

16. The Counsellors shall have a regard to the interests of their respective classes; and report to the Institute whatever they may deem beneficial to them.

17. The officers of the Institute shall, together, be a Board of Administration, (of which the President and Secretary of the Institute shall be President and Secretary,) which shall have a general superintendence of the affairs of the Institute, and of the hall, library, cabinet, observatory, philosophical and other apparatus, and of the botanic garden, and of all other property and effects belonging to the Institute. This Board shall meet whenever the President, or any two members of it, shall deem proper; and a majority of the members shall be a quorum. It shall be subject to any instructions from the Institute.

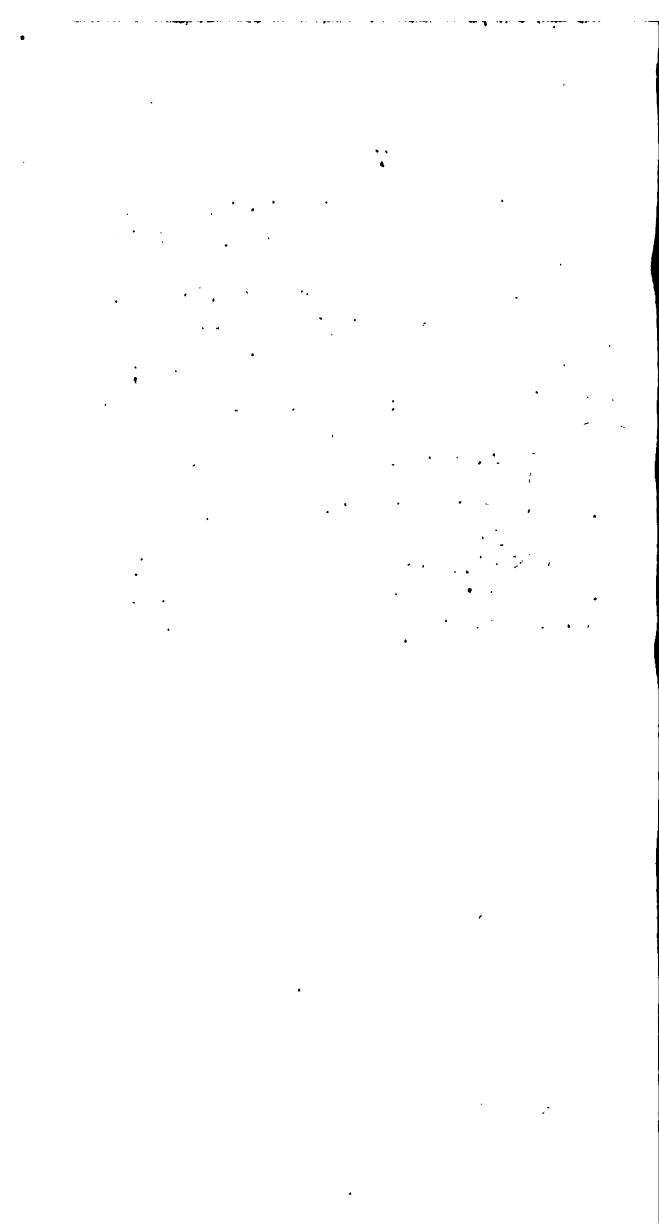
18. Any officer may be removed by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members who may

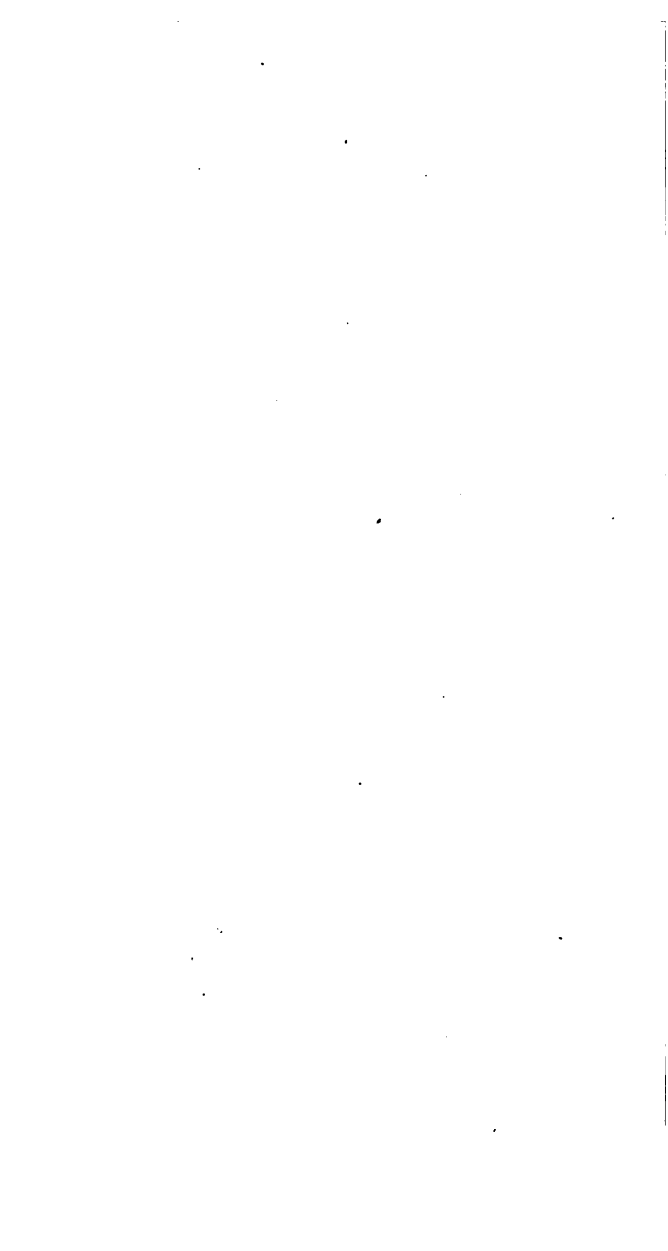
be present when the resolution for his removal may be brought forward: but no such resolution shall be brought forward, without one month's previous notice thereof. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of any officer, a new election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

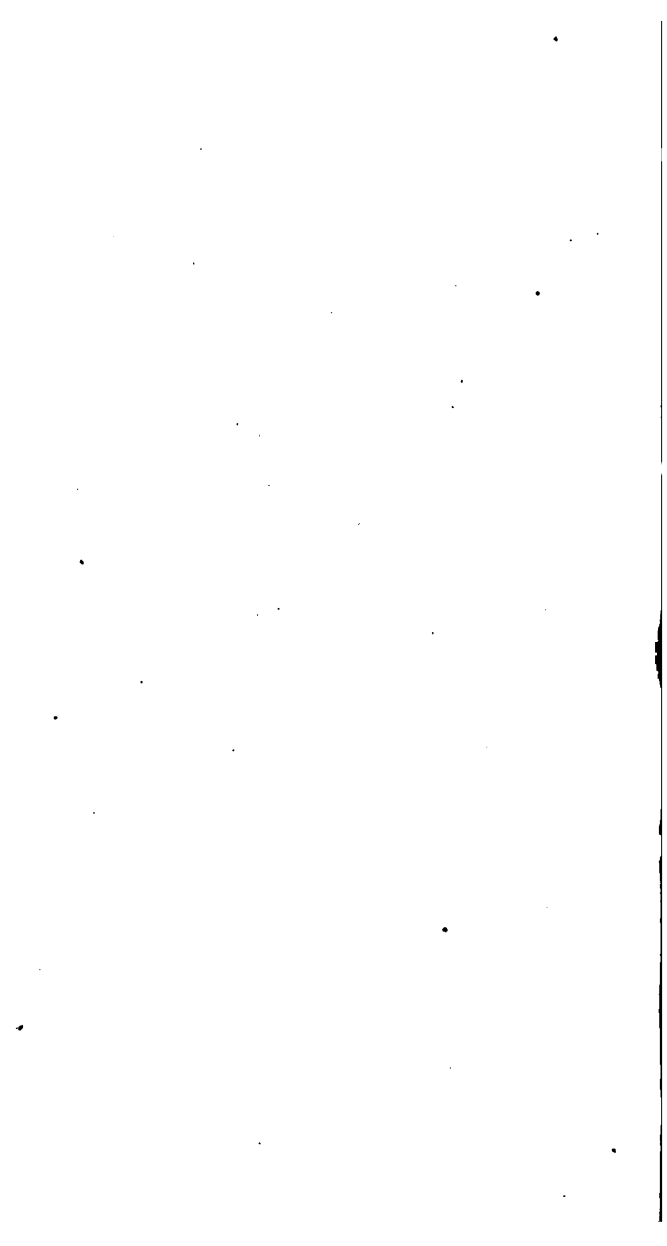
19. An annual meeting shall be held on the last Saturday in each year; a stated meeting on the first Saturday in each month; and special meetings whenever three members concur in a request to that effect.

20. Five members shall be a quorum; but, in the absence of a quorum, those members who may be present shall have power to adjourn a meeting.

21. This ordinance shall not be altered or repealed without one month's previous notice.



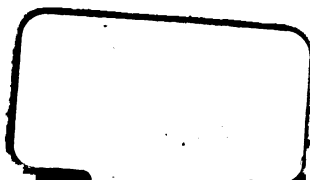




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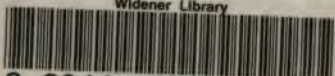
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